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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Gerry Creedon, the pastor of St. Charles Catholic Church, Arlington, VA.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Reverend Gerry Creedon, offered the following prayer:

God of justice, many who search for truth, as well as the followers of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, proclaim You as the defender of the widow, the orphan, the poor, the stranger, the oppressed, the afflicted, the underpaid, and the captive.

As we exercise stewardship over the Nation's resources, may the needs of the poor and the vulnerable be our first concern. May our Government renew its leadership role with community groups and with people of faith in our common and oft neglected struggle against poverty.

God of peace, whose arms are the methods of non-violence, banish from our land the quick recourse to physical force. In the conduct of our foreign policy and in our response to crime, let development, diplomacy, and rehabilitation be the new names for peace.

As the followers of Patrick celebrate their heritage this month, may Irish Americans be the first among us to open doors of compassion and opportunity for all who seek refuge in our land.

"Failte roimh Cach," In ainm Phadraig, guimis, Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN ENSIGN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 8, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENSIGN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

### REVEREND GERRY CREEDON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend the Senate's guest Chaplain, Rev. Gerry Creedon, for his eloquent prayer opening today's session of the Senate. Father Creedon has been a friend of long standing to the members of my family. We first came to know him in 1975 when he became the associate pastor at St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean, VA.

Somehow he managed to learn the names not only of my children, but of all my nieces and nephews. This greatly impressed us all, especially Ethel, who knew then he must be very special, for it is a rare accomplishment even to this day. Over the years he has watched the children grow up and has always been there for them, and for all of us, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. It is Father Creedon who has presided over many a happy family wedding, and it is he whom we have always asked to celebrate the Mass in

memory of my brother at his graveside in Arlington Cemetery.

You may have noticed a bit of a lilt in Father Creedon's voice as he gave the prayer this morning. You would not be wrong if you thought you heard an Irish accent. He was born in County Cork in Ireland.

He was educated at the University College Dublin and then came to the United States where he received his master's degree at Washington Theological Union in Maryland. He also studied at Catholic University here in Washington, DC, before being ordained in 1968 at All Hallows College in Dublin.

Fortunately for us, he was sent back to the United States after his ordination and started his pastoral service at Blessed Sacrament in Alexandria, VA. From Alexandria, to McLean, to pastor at Good Shepherd in Mt. Vernon, VA, Father Creedon has spent most of his life ministering to those in the metropolitan area. But in 1991 he was transferred to the Dominican Republic where he was a pastor and pastoral coordinator in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana for five years. He returned with a renewed passion in the Latino community and human rights issues, and has become an active spiritual advisor for people of Hispanic background in this area.

Currently, Father Creedon is the pastor of St. Charles in Arlington, VA. He is the Chair of the Virginia Inter-faith Center for Public Policy, and on the Steering Committee of Northern Virginia's Inter-faith Coalition for Justice. He has always taken a special interest in the housing needs of our less fortunate citizens and been active on behalf of disadvantaged children.

He was president of Gabriel Homes, Inc. which sponsored group living for developmentally disabled adults from 1982 until 1991, and was the Founder of Friends of Children's Services in 1983. His efforts have been recognized with many awards including the Human

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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